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NEW LAWNVIEW APARTMENTS AT UD SLATED FOR JUNIOR, SENIOR HOUSING

DAYTON, Ohio — A new apartment building in the south student neighborhood at the University of Dayton will help with a housing crunch caused by a surge in undergraduate enrollment and increased interest in University housing by juniors.

UD broke ground on a new \$6.75 million residential apartment facility — to be called Lawnview Apartments — for students on Tuesday, May 4. The four-story brick building, similar in architectural style to Kettering Residence Hall on campus, will house 165 juniors and seniors in mostly four-person apartments, complete with fully furnished kitchens and built-in computer work stations in the bedrooms. Other amenities in the building will include individual storage closets for each apartment and a multi-purpose room for meetings and programs.

Four UD-owned houses on Lowes Street will be torn down over the next few weeks to make room for the residential facility.

The new apartments will provide additional housing to meet the requests of juniors and seniors and increase the total housing capacity at UD to more than 5,300 beds, which will help the University maintain its status as the country's 14th-largest residential campus among private universities, according to the Association of College and University Housing Officers International. About 83 percent of the University's undergraduates live in UD housing, with another 9 percent residing in nearby landlord-owned housing.

Last fall's entering class of 1,837 was the largest in nearly 30 years, and admission deposits from members of the Class of 2003 have been running about the same as last year's pace. In 1997, UD enrolled 1,635 first-year students, a 4 percent increase over 1996.

On a fast-track design-build construction schedule, Lawnview Apartments are expected to be completed in April 2000. Miller-Valentine Group, one of the area's leading commercial real estate developers and contractors, is the general contractor for the project. The company has built a variety of facilities in the Dayton area, including the Wright Executive Center, Park Center, Lincoln Park Retirement Center and Beavercreek Town Center.

This is the first UD project for Miller-Valentine Group, said David Chong, senior project manager. "And it's a good match. All of our founding partners — Gerry Miller, Dan Valentine and Jim Walsh — are UD grads," he said.

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The construction schedule calls for much of the heavy work to be completed this summer and for the building to be enclosed before winter weather sets in.

To help with the increased demand for housing this fall, the University has leased space for 48 students in Irving Commons apartments near campus. Houses and apartments in the campus neighborhoods previously reserved for graduate students have been reassigned for undergraduate housing.

UD has a long-standing commitment to fostering a diverse residential character as an integral part of a UD education, and the University has established an estimated \$90 million long-range development plan for the north and south student neighborhoods between now and 2030.

"We've intentionally focused our attention on the residential nature of the University and how that contributes to a complete, well-rounded education for our students," said William C. Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students. "We've built a community on campus, where students learn their responsibilities toward the immediate environment as well as toward the larger universal community and a commitment to the service of humanity."

The new residential facility is part of numerous current and proposed projects for the student neighborhoods. Three duplexes on Kiefaber Street are nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy this fall, continuing a policy to maintain the character of the student neighborhoods that started in 1994. The connection of 350 houses in a 25-block area to the campus network through a high-speed fiber-optic link will be completed in July.

Additional plans for the next five years include construction of a Living and Learning Arts Complex, expansion of Founders Field, creation of a small park called the "Village Green" near McGinnis Center, 301 Lowes St., and replacement of some of the older single-family homes with new single and duplex houses.

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For media interviews, contact **Bill Schuerman** at (937) 229-3311 and **David Chong** at (937) 293-0900.